

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/102,543	06/22/98	HURST	R MEE-0026935-

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QM11/0406

EXAMINER
WATSON, R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3723	

DATE MAILED: 04/06/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.	102,593	Applicant(s)	Hurst et al
Examiner	R C WATSON	Group Art Unit	3723

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address--

Period for Response

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a response be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for response is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to respond within the set or extended period for response will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- This action is FINAL.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 1 - 24 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) 16 - 24 is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) 1, 5-9, 12-15 is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) 2-4, 10-11 is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Attachment(s)

- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Notice of References Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

Office Action Summary

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 5-9, and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shurtz in view of DeSantis.

In Shurtz 6 is a first clamp, 18,19 is a second clamp, 24 is a tube portion receiving a shaft portion. The tube and shaft are adjustably locked by a peripheral split ring.

DeSantis teaches the use of an expansion portion coaxial with a shaft and within a tube portion for locking the shaft within the tube portion.

To substitute the Shultz peripheral split ring locking means with an expansion portion coaxial with a shaft and within a tube would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made in view of the disclosure of DeSantis. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to provide a more convenient means of locking the shaft to the tube.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 16-24 are allowed.

Analogous devices are taught by LeFebvre et al, Waechter, and Salter.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert C. Watson whose telephone number is (703) 308-1747.



Robert C. Watson
Primary Examiner

RCW

March 29, 1999